

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. LEBANON: COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL DIALOGUE

THE NEWLY FORMED "COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL DIALOGUE," COMPOSED OF TEN CHRISTIANS AND TEN MOSLEMS, WAS DESIGNED AS THE ONLY WAY OUT OF THE CURRENT CRISIS. CONCEIVABLY IT WILL DAMPEN THE FIGHTING, BUT ITS LARGER AIM OF TACKLING BASIC SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ISSUES MAY PROVE MORE FORMIDABLE.

--THUS FAR, THE DIALOGUE COMMITTEE HAS SUCCEEDED ONLY IN APPLYING BALM TO NATIONAL WOUNDS REQUIRING RADICAL SURGERY; THE FACT THAT IT DID NOT COLLAPSE IN ITS FIRST MEETING IS ENCOURAGING, BUT THE PARTIES ARE STILL VERY FAR FROM ATTACKING CONSTRUCTIVELY THE SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES WHICH DIVIDE THEM.

--THE COMMITTEE'S CONFESSIONAL BALANCE SETS A PRECEDENT

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FOR MEETING MOSLEM DEMANDS FOR GREATER POLITICAL POWER.

--THE LEVEL OF FIGHTING IN BEIRUT CONTINUES TO DROP BUT THE CEASEFIRE IS NOT FULLY EFFECTIVE. (CONFIDENTIAL) BEIRUT 11976 AND 12021, 9/26.)

2. EGYPT: REPORT OF ANTI-SADAT RALLY

FOREIGN MINISTER FAHMY TOLD AMBASSADOR EILTS THAT NASSERIST AND MARXIST STUDENTS GATHERED AT AIN SHAMS UNIVERSITY SEPTEMBER 21-24 TO PROTEST THE SINAI II DISENGAGEMENT TERMS. SECURITY FORCES MADE SOME ARRESTS, INCLUDING PROMINENT LEFTIST KAMAL AL-DIN RIF'AT, A FORMER MINISTER OF LABOR AND AMBASSADOR TO GREAT BRITAIN.

--THE GOE CONTINUES TO HAVE NIGHTMARES ABOUT A COALITION OF THE FAR LEFT AND FAR RIGHT AGAINST SADAT.

--SHOULD TWO REVOLUTIONARY "HEROES" SUCH AS RIF'AT AND RIGHTIST FORMER VP HUSSEIN SHAFAT ATTEMPT TO LEAD SUCH A MOVEMENT, OR EVEN PUBLICALLY CONDONE THE STUDENT PROTEST, THE SITUATION WOULD BE SERIOUS. (SECRET) CAIRO 9586, 9/26.)

3. SOVIETS CURB INFIGHTING AT MOSCOW AFRO-ASIAN MEETING

AN EGYPTIAN EMBASSY OFFICER HAS PROVIDED EMBASSY MOSCOW WITH SOME INFORMATION ON THE INFIGHTING AMONG THE MIDDLE EAST DELEGATIONS DURING THE RECENT CONFERENCE OF THE AFRO-ASIAN PEOPLES SOLIDARITY ORGANIZATION IN MOSCOW. ACCORDING TO THE EGYPTIAN, THE GOE DELEGATION WAS CONCERNED BY A POSSIBLE MOVE BY PALESTINIANS, SYRIANS AND IRAQIS TO INCORPORATE IN THE CONFERENCE'S RESOLUTION LANGUAGE HOSTILE TO EGYPT.

--THE SOVIETS, HOWEVER, TOOK POSITIVE STEPS TO AVERT A BREAKDOWN BOTH TO AVOID EXACERBATING INTER-ARAB DIFFERENCES AND TO SAVE THE SOVIETS THE EMBARRASSMENT OF A COLLAPSE OF THE CONFERENCE.

--THE PALESTINIAN AND EGYPTIAN DELEGATIONS WOULD EACH LEAVE THE HALL WHEN THE OTHER ROSE TO SPEAK AND WOULD
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RETURN TO THE HALL ONLY AT THE URGING OF OTHER ARAB DELEGATIONS.

A TURKISH SOURCE ALSO TOLD THE EMBASSY THAT THERE WERE RUMORS OF AN ATTEMPT TO PASS SOME SORT OF ANTI-TURKISH RESOLUTION, BUT THAT THE ATTEMPT EITHER FIZZLED OR WAS SQUELCHED BY UNKNOWN FORCES. (CONFIDENTIAL) MOSCOW 13801, 9/26.)

4. ANGOLA: PORTUGUESE WILL RESIST MPLA UDI

HIGH COMMISSIONER ADMIRAL CARDOSO HAS INFORMED CONSUL KILLO-
RAN THAT THE PORTUGUESE WILL UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES ACQUI-

ESCE SHOULD THE MPLA ATTEMPT A UDI BEFORE THE SCHEDULED
INDEPENDENCE DAY ON NOVEMBER 11. IF AN ACCEPTABLE POLITICAL
SOLUTION CANNOT BE FOUND BY THEN, THE GOP WILL TRY TO GIVE
JURISDICTION TO THE UN. SHOULD THE MPLA ATTEMPT TO TAKE
OVER THE COUNTRY, CARDOSO PREDICTED THE PORTUGUESE ARMY WILL
FIGHT. (SECRET) LUANDA 1430 (EXDIS), 9/26.)

5. ZAIRE: ANTI-MOBUTU ACTIVITY INCREASING

INDICATIONS OF MOUNTING POPULAR DISSATISFACTION WITH THE
MOBUTU REGIME HAVE BEEN INCREASING. AS EXAMPLES: ANTI-
MOBUTU LEAFLETS HAVE BEEN CIRCULATED WIDELY IN KINSHASA BY
MEMBERS OF OUTLAWED POLITICAL GROUPS, AND A CLANDESTINE
RADIO STATION REPORTEDLY OPERATED BY BAKONGO SEPARATISTS
BROADCAST FOR TWO WEEKS BEFORE BEING SHUT DOWN. (CONFIDEN-
TIAL) KINSHASA 8678, 9/26.)

6. US INITIATIVES STIR PRODUCER INTEREST AT UNCTAD COCOA
TALKS

US MISSION GENEVA REPORTS THAT OUR WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS A
NEW FLEXIBLE AGREEMENT WITH WIDER PRICE RANGES AND MORE VIA-
BLE ECONOMIC MECHANISMS, INCLUDING BUFFER STOCKS, HAS MET
WITH PRODUCER INTEREST BUT CONSUMERS ARE RESISTING MAJOR
DEPARTURES FROM THE PRESENT AGREEMENT. DELEGATES APPEAR TO
LACK INSTRUCTIONS AND CONSIDERED REACTIONS MAY THEREFORE BE
DELAYED SEVERAL DAYS. (CONFIDENTIAL) GENEVA 7361, 9/26.)

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7. VIENNA: OIL MINISTERS STILL DEADLOCKED

THE OPEC MEETING ADJOURNED LATE FRIDAY EVENING, APPARENTLY
WITHOUT AN AGREEMENT, AND WILL RECONVENE SATURDAY MORNING.
IRANIAN MINISTER AMOUZEGAR EMPHASIZED THAT HE THOUGHT OPEC
WOULD ACCEPT NOTHING LESS THAN A 10 PERCENT PRICE INCREASE.
(UNCLASSIFIED) VIENNA 8272, 9/26.) KISSINGER

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